

Message Text

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73

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CCO-00 CIAE-00 OTPE-00 EB-07 FCC-01

INR-07 NSAE-00 OC-06 USIA-06 COME-00 BIB-01 L-03

TRSE-00 /044 W

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R 152057Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 480

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE OTTAWA 2889

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETEL, CA

SUBJ: TELEVISION POLICY QUESTION: CRTC VIEWS

REF: OTTAWA 2762

1. SHOEMAKER (EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, POLICY PLANNING AND ANALYSIS, CRTC) MET JULY 14 WITH TCO FOR REVIEW OF GENERAL SITUATION. WITH RESPECT TO A POSSIBLE SECOND BILATERAL MEETING, SHOEMAKER INDICATED THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO CONTACT BETWEEN CRTC AND EXTAFF FOR SEVERAL WEEKS AND HE WAS NOT FULLY AWARE THAT USG WAS PRESSING ACTIVELY FOR MEETING. HE SAID CHAIRMAN BOYLE INTENDED TO BE PART OF CANADIAN DELEGATION WHEN SUCH A MEETING TOOK PLACE BUT THAT BOYLE'S TRAVEL AND VACATION PLANS DID NOT APPEAR TO PERMIT HIS PARTICIPATION BEFORE END OF AUGUST.

2. SHOEMAKER ALSO DISCLAIMED KNOWLEDGE OF ANY COUNTER-PROPOSAL GOC PREPARING TO PUT ON TABLE. HE ALLOWED THAT IT WAS POSSIBLE EXTAFF AND DOC WERE DEVELOPING ONE BUT THOUGHT IT STRANGE THAT CRTC HAD NOT BEEN INVOLVED SINCE EVEN IF GOC DECIDED ON A NEW POLICY TO DEAL WITH BORDER STATION PROBLEM ITS IMPLEMENTATION WOULD DEPEND ON CRTC WHICH SHOULD AT LEAST ADVISE OTHER AGENCIES AS TO LEGAL AND

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ADMINISTRATIVE RAMIFICATIONS.

3. SHOEMAKER AND TCO BRIEFLY REVIEWED PENDING U.S. COPY-RIGHT LEGISLATION WHICH WOULD ESTABLISH PRINCIPLE THAT CABLE TV OPERATORS PAY ROYALTIES DOMESTICALLY TO COPY-RIGHT AND HOLDERS FOR PROGRAMS THEY RELAY. SHOEMAKER APPLAUDED THE PRINCIPLE INVOLVED HERE BUT DID NOT SEE ITS RELEVANCE, ONE WAY OR THE OTHER, TO THE BORDER PROBLEM. IN ANY EVENT, HE NOTED, CANADIAN COPYRIGHT LEGISLATION WAS UNLIKELY TO BE REVISED IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

4. THE POSSIBLE EXTENSION OF THIS LEGISLATION TO INCLUDE A BAN ON PRERELEASE (PER BLAKEMORE-O'CONNOR TELECON OF JULY 13) WAS MENTIONED BY TCO. SHOEMAKER OBSERVED THAT ANY RESTRICTIONS ON PRERELEASE RIGHTS WOULD HURT CANADIAN BROADCASTERS ALTHOUGH IT WAS DIFFICULT TO ASCERTAIN DEGREE OF DAMAGE THAT WOULD ENSUE. PRICE FOR PRERELEASE RIGHTS, HE ADDED, IS NO LONGER STATED SEPARATELY BUT IS A SMALL PREMIUM BUILT INTO GENERAL PRICING STRUCTURE OF U.S. PROGRAMS.
ENDERS

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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